



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of the Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kerri Richardson
502.564.2611
502.330.6633

Terry Sebastian
502.564.2611
502.229.6130

Nancy Rodriguez
502.564.2000

**Governor, education groups encourage Kentucky’s educators
to connect online in support of college- and career-readiness**

Connected Educators Month promotes educator effectiveness; better student outcomes

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 1, 2013) – As part of Connected Educators Month, Governor Steve Beshear is joining with leaders from the Kentucky Department of Education, the Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky and the Hope Street Group in encouraging educators in the state to ‘get connected’ to improve their practice and advance student achievement.

“Kentucky is already a nationwide leader in education,” said Gov. Beshear. “By connecting our teachers and administrators to online professional learning opportunities, we will move even closer to delivering a world-class education for all of our students.”

Connected Educator Month (CEM) uses online communities and networks to support teachers and administrators as they implement standards and develop effective instructional practices to help students learn and become more successful. Educators will use blogs, Twitter chats and other online communities to connect and share ideas. The goal is to bring together educators at all levels, in all disciplines, to address key issues and move toward a fully connected and collaborative profession.

In 2012, during the inaugural Connected Educators Month, more than 170 education organizations held more than 450 online events and activities and reached more than four million educators and others in the U.S. and worldwide.

“This effort aligns with Kentucky’s ongoing commitment to educator effectiveness and college/career-readiness for all our students,” said Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. “The activities taking place this month can have a positive effect on our teachers and students for years to come.”

Plans for Connected Educator Month in Kentucky include:

- providing school districts a variety of connected education resources (The state already provides anytime, anywhere online professional learning through PD 360.)
- sharing blogs from Kentucky educators about being “connected” and how it impacts students. To read daily spotlights on Kentucky Connected Educators, go [here](#).
- participating in Twitter chats (#KyEdChat) each Thursday evening in October from 8:04-9:04 p.m. to provide information and receive feedback from educators and education partners
- promoting habits that sustain and improve digital communities during Digital Citizenship Week, October 21-25
- convening the [Innovate-to-Learn Institute](#) October 28-29 in Lexington which combines the 1:1 Bring Your Own Device Institute and a focus on STEM on the second day
- taking a leadership role on connected education by putting state-led events and related activities on the Connected Educator Month [calendar](#) for sharing with other states

Connected Educator Month is sponsored by the U.S Department of Education. For more information about CEM, visit <http://www.connectededucatormonth.org>.

###

Follow Governor Beshear on Twitter [@Govstevebeshear](#), read the Governor’s personal notes on his blog at <http://governor.ky.gov/blog>, and view his video commentaries at <http://www.youtube.com/governorbeshear>.